

# Loop Processing

A processing loop is a group of statements which are executed repeatedly until a stated condition has been satisfied, or as long as a certain condition prevails.

The following topics are covered:

- Use of Processing Loops
  - Limiting Database Loops
  - Limiting Non-Database Loops - REPEAT Statement
  - Example of REPEAT Statement
  - Terminating a Processing Loop - ESCAPE Statement
  - Loops within Loops
  - Example of Nested FIND Statements
  - Referencing Statements within a Program
  - Example of Referencing with Line Numbers
  - Example with Statement Reference Labels
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## Use of Processing Loops

Processing loops can be subdivided into database loops and non-database loops:

- **Database processing loops**  
are those created automatically by Natural to process data selected from a database as a result of a READ, FIND or HISTOGRAM statement.  
These statements are described in the section Database Access.
- **Non-database processing loops**  
are initiated by the statements REPEAT, FOR, CALL FILE, CALL LOOP, SORT, and READ WORK FILE.

More than one processing loop may be active at the same time. Loops may be embedded or nested within other loops which remain active (open).

A processing loop must be explicitly closed with a corresponding END-... statement (for example, END-REPEAT, END-FOR, etc.)

The SORT statement, which invokes the sort program of the operating system, closes all active processing loops and initiates a new processing loop.

## Limiting Database Loops

- Possible Ways of Limiting Database Loops
- LT Session Parameter
- LIMIT Statement
- Limit Notation
- Priority of Limit Settings

### Possible Ways of Limiting Database Loops

With the statements READ, FIND or HISTOGRAM, you have three ways of limiting the number of repetitions of the processing loops initiated with these statements:

- using the session parameter LT,
- using a LIMIT statement,
- or using a limit notation in a READ/FIND/HISTOGRAM statement itself.

## LT Session Parameter

With the system command GLOBALS, you can specify the session parameter LT, which limits the number of records which may be read in a database processing loop.

Example:

```
GLOBALS LT=100
```

This limit applies to all READ, FIND and HISTOGRAM statements in the entire session.

## LIMIT Statement

In a program, you can use the LIMIT statement to limit the number of records which may be read in a database processing loop.

Example:

```
LIMIT 100
```

The LIMIT statement applies to the remainder of the program unless it is overridden by another LIMIT statement or limit notation.

## Limit Notation

With a READ, FIND or HISTOGRAM statement itself, you can specify the number of records to be read in parentheses immediately after the statement name.

Example:

```
READ (10) VIEWXYZ BY NAME
```

This limit notation overrides any other limit in effect, but applies only to the statement in which it is specified.

## Priority of Limit Settings

If the limit set with the LT parameter is smaller than a limit specified with a LIMIT statement or a limit notation, the LT limit has priority over any of these other limits.

## Limiting Non-Database Loops - REPEAT Statement

Non-database processing loops begin and end based on logical condition criteria or some other specified limiting condition.

The REPEAT statement is discussed here as representative of a non-database loop statement.

With the REPEAT statement, you specify one or more statements which are to be executed repeatedly. Moreover, you can specify a logical condition, so that the statements are only executed either until or as long as that condition is met. For this purpose you use an UNTIL or WHILE clause.

If you specify the logical condition

- in an UNTIL clause, the REPEAT loop will continue *until* the logical condition is met;
- in a WHILE clause, the REPEAT loop will continue *as long as* the logical condition remains true.

If you specify **no** logical condition, the REPEAT loop must be exited with one of the following statements:

- **ESCAPE**  
terminates the execution of the processing loop and continues processing outside the loop (see below).
- **STOP**  
stops the execution of the entire Natural application.
- **TERMINATE**  
stops the execution of the Natural application and also ends the Natural session.

## Example of REPEAT Statement

```

** Example Program 'REPEAX01'
DEFINE DATA LOCAL
1 MYVIEW VIEW OF EMPLOYEES
  2 NAME
  2 SALARY (1:1)
1 #PAY1 (N8)
END-DEFINE
*
READ (5) MYVIEW BY NAME WHERE SALARY (1) = 30000 THRU 39999
  MOVE SALARY (1) TO #PAY1
  REPEAT WHILE #PAY1 LT 40000
    MULTIPLY #PAY1 BY 1.1
    DISPLAY NAME (IS=ON) SALARY (1)(IS=ON) #PAY1
  END-REPEAT
  SKIP 1
END-READ
END

```

The above program produces the following output:

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NAME	ANNUAL SALARY	#PAY1	
-----	-----	-----	
ADKINSON	34500	37950 41745	
	33500	36850 40535	
	36000	39600 43560	
AFANASSIEV	37000	40700	
ALEXANDER	34500	37950 41745	

## Terminating a Processing Loop - ESCAPE Statement

The ESCAPE statement is used to terminate the execution of a processing loop based on a logical condition.

You can place an ESCAPE statement within loops in conditional IF statement groups, in break processing statement groups (AT END OF DATA, AT END OF PAGE, AT BREAK), or as a stand-alone statement implementing the basic logical conditions of a non-database loop.

The ESCAPE statement offers the options TOP and BOTTOM, which determine where processing is to continue after the processing loop has been left via the ESCAPE statement:

- ESCAPE TOP is used to continue processing at the top of the processing loop.
- ESCAPE BOTTOM is used to continue processing with the first statement following the processing loop.

You can specify several ESCAPE statements within the same processing loop.

For further details and examples of the ESCAPE statement, see the Natural Statements documentation.

## Loops Within Loops

A database statement can be placed within a database processing loop initiated by another database statement. When database loop-initiating statements are embedded in this way, a "hierarchy" of loops is created, each of which is processed for each record which meets the selection criteria.

Multiple levels of loops can be embedded. For example, non-database loops can be nested one inside the other. Database loops can be nested inside non-database loops. Database and non-database loops can be nested within conditional statement groups.

## Example of Nested FIND Statements

The following program illustrates a hierarchy of two loops, with one FIND loop nested or embedded within another FIND loop.

```

** Example Program 'FINDX06'
DEFINE DATA LOCAL
1 EMPLOY-VIEW VIEW OF EMPLOYEES
  2 CITY
  2 NAME
  2 PERSONNEL-ID
1 VEH-VIEW VIEW OF VEHICLES
  2 MAKE
  2 PERSONNEL-ID
END-DEFINE
*
FND1. FIND EMPLOY-VIEW WITH CITY = 'NEW YORK' OR = 'BEVERLEY HILLS'
  FIND (1) VEH-VIEW WITH PERSONNEL-ID = PERSONNEL-ID (FND1.)
  DISPLAY NOTITLE NAME CITY MAKE
  END-FIND
END-FIND
END

```

The above program selects data from multiple files. The outer FIND loop selects from the EMPLOYEES file all persons who live in New York or Beverley Hills. For each record selected in the outer loop, the inner FIND loop is entered, selecting the car data of those persons from the VEHICLES file. The program produces the following output:

NAME	CITY	MAKE
RUBIN	NEW YORK	FORD
OLLE	BEVERLEY HILLS	GENERAL MOTORS
ADKINSON	BEVERLEY HILLS	FORD
WALLACE	NEW YORK	MAZDA
SPEISER	BEVERLEY HILLS	FORD

## Referencing Statements within a Program

Statement reference notation is used to refer to previous statements in a program in order to specify processing over a particular range of data, to override Natural's default referencing (as described for each statement in the Natural Statements documentation, where applicable), or for documentation purposes.

Any Natural statement which causes a processing loop to be initiated and/or causes data elements in a database to be accessed. For example, the following statements can be referenced:

- READ
- FIND
- HISTOGRAM
- SORT
- REPEAT
- FOR

When multiple processing loops are used in a program, reference notation is used to uniquely identify the particular database field to be processed by referring back to the statement that originally accessed that field in the database. (If a field can be referenced in such a way, this is indicated in the "Reference Permitted" column of the "Operand Definition Table" in the statement description in the Natural Statements documentation.)

In addition, reference notation can be specified in some statements. For example:

- AT START OF DATA
- AT END OF DATA
- AT BREAK
- ESCAPE BOTTOM

Without reference notation, an AT START OF DATA, AT END OF DATA or AT BREAK statement will be related to the *outermost* active READ, FIND, HISTOGRAM, SORT or READ WORK FILE loop. With reference notation, you can relate it to another active processing loop.

If reference notation is specified with an ESCAPE BOTTOM statement, processing will continue with the first statement following the processing loop identified by the reference notation.

Statement reference notation may be specified in the form of a **statement label** or a **source-code line number**.

A **statement label** consists of several characters, the last of which must be a period (.). The period serves to identify the entry as a label.

A statement that is to be referenced is marked with a label by placing the label at the beginning of the line that contains the statement. For example:

```

0030 ...
0040 READ1. READ VIEWXYZ BY NAME
0050 ...

```

In the statement that references the marked statement, the label is placed in parentheses at the location indicated in the statement's syntax diagram (as described in the Natural Statements documentation). For example:

```
AT BREAK (READ1.) OF NAME
```

If **source-code line number** are used for referencing, they must be specified as 4-digit numbers (leading zeros must not be omitted) and in parentheses. For example:

```
AT BREAK (0040) OF NAME
```

In a statement where the label/line number relates a particular field to a previous statement, the label/line number is placed in parentheses after the field name. For example:

```
DISPLAY NAME (READ1.) JOB-TITLE (READ1.) MAKE MODEL
```

Line numbers and labels can be used interchangeably.

## Example of Referencing with Line Numbers

The following program uses line numbers for referencing.

In this particular example, the line numbers refer to the statements that would be referenced in any case by default.

```

0010 ** Example Program 'LABELX01'
0020 DEFINE DATA LOCAL
0030 1 MYVIEW1 VIEW OF EMPLOYEES
0040 2 NAME
0050 2 FIRST-NAME
0060 2 PERSONNEL-ID
0070 1 MYVIEW2 VIEW OF VEHICLES
0080 2 PERSONNEL-ID
0090 2 MAKE
0100 END-DEFINE
0110 *
0120 LIMIT 15
0130 READ MYVIEW1 BY NAME STARTING FROM 'JONES'
0140 FIND MYVIEW2 WITH PERSONNEL-ID = PERSONNEL-ID (0130)
0150 IF NO RECORDS FOUND
0160 MOVE '***NO CAR***' TO MAKE
0170 END-NOREC
0180 DISPLAY NOTITLE NAME (0130) (IS=ON) FIRST-NAME (0130) (IS=ON)
0190 MAKE (0140)
0200 END-FIND /* (0140)
0210 END-READ /* (0130)
0220 END

```

## Example with Statement Reference Labels

The following example illustrates the use of statement reference labels.

It is identical to the previous program, except that labels are used for referencing instead of line numbers.

```

0010 ** Example Program 'LABELX02'
0020 DEFINE DATA LOCAL
0030 1 MYVIEW1 VIEW OF EMPLOYEES
0040   2 NAME
0050   2 FIRST-NAME
0060   2 PERSONNEL-ID
0070 1 MYVIEW2 VIEW OF VEHICLES
0080   2 PERSONNEL-ID
0090   2 MAKE
0100 END-DEFINE
0110 *
0120 LIMIT 15
0130 RD. READ MYVIEW1 BY NAME STARTING FROM 'JONES'
0140   FD. FIND MYVIEW2 WITH PERSONNEL-ID = PERSONNEL-ID (FD.)
0150     IF NO RECORDS FOUND
0160       MOVE '***NO CAR***' TO MAKE
0170     END-NOREC
0180     DISPLAY NOTITLE NAME (RD.) (IS=ON) FIRST-NAME (RD.) (IS=ON)
0190           MAKE (FD.)
0200   END-FIND /* (FD.)
0210 END-READ  /* (RD.)
0220 END

```

Both programs produce the following output:

NAME	FIRST-NAME	MAKE
-----		
JONES	VIRGINIA	***NO CAR***
	MARSHA	CHRYSLER
		CHRYSLER
	ROBERT	GENERAL MOTORS
	LILLY	***NO CAR***
	EDWARD	GENERAL MOTORS
	MARTHA	***NO CAR***
	LAUREL	GENERAL MOTORS
	KEVIN	DATSUN
	GREGORY	FORD
JOPER	MANFRED	***NO CAR***
JOUSSELIN	DANIEL	RENAULT
JUBE	GABRIEL	***NO CAR***
JUNG	ERNST	***NO CAR***
JUNKIN	JEREMY	***NO CAR***
KAISER	REINER	***NO CAR***